

NEWHAVEN  
PORT HEALTH  
AUTHORITY  
A 27 FEBRUARY  
1950

## NEWHAVEN PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PORT MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1949.

Public Health Department,  
Lewes House,  
Lewes, Sussex.

February, 1950.



NEWHAVEN PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

ANNUAL REPORT for the YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1949.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NEWHAVEN PORT HEALTH COMMITTEE,

Madam and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1949 of the Port Medical Officer and Medical Inspector of Aliens of Newhaven Port.

The year has seen a great increase in the passenger traffic. Perusal of this Report shews that during the year the total number of inward passengers was 202,879 and of outward passengers was 210,479; of the inward passengers 48,127 were aliens. A comparison with the figures recorded during the past few years shows how an annual increase took place in the amount of passenger traffic passing through the Port. The figures for inward passenger traffic were 30,110 in 1945, 60,585 in 1946, 108,583 in 1947, 129,670 in 1948, and the figure now presented is 202,879 for 1949. Thus the total of inward passenger traffic has been multiplied by more than six times in the past four years and the annual increase on the preceding year's figures has been progressively larger each year. The increase in 1949 was 73,209, as compared with an increase of 21,087 in 1948.

The inwards alien passenger traffic comprises, as you are aware, that portion of the total passenger traffic at the Port most in need of careful and continuous surveillance, and the total of 48,127 aliens entering the Port is the highest recorded, that of 47,903 in 1937 being the next highest figure.

The number of British passengers entering the Port during 1949 was 154,752 which also is the highest figure ever recorded.

So far as the outward passenger traffic is concerned, the same story of continuous and rapid expansion is unfolded, the total alien outwards traffic of 50,323 being nearly 10,000 greater than the 1948 total of 40,401, and the total British outward passenger traffic of 160,156 being over 66,000 more than the preceding year's total of 93,363.

Of the 47,946 inward aliens passing under the observation of the Inspector of Aliens, 1,459 were subjected to detailed medical examination and 21 were found to be physically incapacitated.

The number of vessels entering the Port carrying alien passengers was 441. Throughout the year these vessels arrived at the Port in the afternoons each day. An additional night crossing service in the summer months necessitated medical inspection of aliens at a very early hour in the morning.

If it is contemplated to increase the number of vessels carrying aliens and the number of crossings, the medical inspection of aliens will become an administrative problem not too easily solved.

On some days in the winter a comparative mere handful of passengers are landed sometimes with very few aliens. As to the economic or business angle as far as the shipping organisations are concerned no doubt they have paid due regard to this.

The accommodation for the medical inspection of aliens is as satisfactory as could be expected as this has been made in an old building. Nevertheless, the accommodation, furnishings, equipment, etc., have been maintained in the improved condition which was effected in 1948.



Arrangements for the cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons and clothing, for hospital accommodation of infectious diseases cases, for the internment of the dead and for clinic treatment, remained as in former years. Ambulances for infectious diseases and other cases have been available through the East Sussex County Council. Facilities for bacteriological and pathological examinations were provided as in former years for the first nine months of 1949. Satisfactory arrangements were made with the Public Health Laboratory Service, Brighton, for these examinations to be undertaken in Brighton for the last three months of the year. This latter scheme will continue and it can be reported that it is working well.

An interesting side light on the effect that articles in the foreign public press etc., concerning the National Health Service has had upon the minds of inhabitants of other countries was revealed by the following : - The master of a foreign vessel in the Port made a request that the Port Medical Officer examine eight of the crew. The Port Medical Officer accordingly boarded the vessel. Medical examinations revealed that two members of the crew were suffering from venereal disease. Massive doses of penicillin were administered to each case on the spot since the vessel was due out of Port in a few hours and there was no time left for the men to attend the Venereal Diseases Clinic in Brighton. The remaining six members of the crew presented a mixed bag of alleged ailments. One had slight acne, two required glasses, one alleged that he had continuous headaches, one said he had an abscess on the buttock which was nothing more than a pimple on examination and one stated that he felt slightly sick after meals. Apart from the two venereal diseases cases the other complaints were trivial. The foreign vessel has contracted with a firm to carry goods from abroad to Newhaven. According to the master the terms of contract were rather harsh. The chief complaint was that little time was allowed to load up, transport, unload and return. In addition the vessel had had a rough crossing. The master stated that he hoped it would be his last and that he was sorry that he had ever agreed to undertake the job. Evidently the crew didn't like the particular run hence the trivial complaints.

At the end of the medical examination the master made a request that his drugs, such as penicillin, sulpha drugs and other medical necessaries be replenished free in this country. In the end he agreed to replenish them in France.

Besides the great increase in passenger traffic there was also an increase in the tonnage of cargo exported in 1949, which amounted to 27,360 tons, an increase of 7,642 on the 1948 total and 18,876 on the 1947 total. The total tonnage of imports was 177,564 tons which was higher than that of 134,234 tons recorded in 1948, although not yet reaching the figure of 189,427 tons for 1947.

The average annual tonnages for the period 1946 to 1949 were : -

Imports .....	153,945.	Exports .....	14,849.
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The chief imports in 1949 were coal (115,690 tons) fruit and vegetables (24,558 tons) oil and spirit (mineral & motor) (8,658 tons). The chief exports were iron and steel manufacture (4,240 tons) building and road making materials (4,096 tons). Cars imported amounted to 6,976, motor cycles to 590. Cars exported were 8,782 whilst motor cycles exported gave a total of 614.

Imported foods in 1949 totalled 24,809 tons composed of potatoes, fish, vegetables and fruits compared with a total of 18,807 tons imported in 1948.

Nuisances found in British ships inspected were few, only five in number, of which two were from structural defects through wear and tear and three were due to dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to public health. Only one nuisance was found on a ship of another nation.



As before special attention was given to inward vessels from infected ports by the Port Medical Officer, the Assistant Port Medical Officer and by the Sanitary Inspector.

To summarise the main points in this Report we find that, after perusal, there was a remarkable increase in passenger traffic during the year. The total number of aliens who entered the Port is the highest on record. The number of aliens subjected to detailed medical examination was 1,459 as against 543 in 1948. There was a great increase in the tonnage exported and a significant increase in the tonnage imported.

Medical arrangements as to staffing, accommodation, etc., were satisfactory but increased attendance by the medical staff at the Port will have to be considered carefully if additional crossings are made in the future.

There was nothing calling for comment as regards infectious diseases. The inspections of crew's spaces on British and other nations' vessels revealed very few nuisances.

In conclusion, I wish to thank my Assistant, Dr. Stonhouse, for his zeal, his promptness and his unremitting application to duty. My thanks are also due to Mr. Harrison for his help which, with his vast knowledge of shipping, has been most valuable. I am grateful to the Immigration, Customs and C.I.D. Officials for their co-operation and courtesy.

Lastly, I appreciate the help and encouragement which I received from you during the year.

Yours obediently,

G. H. DAVIDSON LOBBAN.

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
F.R.S.I., etc.

Port Health Officer  
Newhaven Port.

Public Health Department,  
Levies House,  
Levies.

February, 1950.



OFFICERS AND STAFF.

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Port Medical Officer Dr. G.M.Davidson Lobban, Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
and F.R.S.I., F.R.I.P.H., F.S.M.O.H.  
Medical Inspector of Aliens

Assistant Port Medical Officer Dr. R. A. Stenhouse, L.M.S.S.A. (Lond.).  
and  
Assistant Medical Inspector  
of Aliens.

Sanitary Inspector and W. P. Harrison, Cert.R.S.I. & S.I.J.B.,  
Food Inspector. Cert. R.S.I. Meat and Foods.  
H.R.San.I.

Clerk - Port Health Department. Miss B. M. Hampor.

Nurse Attendant (Medical Mrs. A. Bassett.  
Inspection of Aliens).



1. AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR.

TABLE "A"

	Number	Tons	No. Inspected by the Medical Officer	Sanit- ary Inspector.	Number reported to be defect- ive.	Number of Vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of Vessels on which defects were found & reported to M. of T. Surveyors	Number of Vessels reported as hav- ing or having had during voyage Infect- ious Disease on board.
<u>FOREIGN</u> -								
Steam ....	450	399,300	12	23	-	-	-	-
Motor ....	357	104,506	17	66	1	1	-	-
Sailing ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fishing ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>TOTAL</u>	807	503,806	29	89	1	1	-	-
<u>COASTWISE</u> -								
Steam ....	179	79,797	4	71	5	4	-	-
Motor ....	441	27,050	-	26	-	-	-	-
Sailing ...	1	40	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fishing ...	2882	31,418	-	30	-	-	-	-
<u>* TOTAL</u>	3503	138,305	4	127	5	4	-	-
<u>COMBINED</u> <u>TOTAL</u> .... (Foreign & *Coastwise)	4310	642,111	33	216	6	5	-	-

\* Includes local fishing vessels and small craft.

Additional:

	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Tons.</u>
Yachts.	3,725	16,483



11. CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.

TABLE "B"

(a) PASSENGER TRAFFIC DURING THE YEAR.  
1949.

	INWARDS			OUTWARDS		
	Aliens	British	Alien Forces	Aliens	British	Alien Forces
January .....	1639	3064	13	1635	1933	16
February .....	1023	1081	16	1046	1277	13
March .....	1108	2172	8	1396	3793	12
April .....	3653	16802	12	3760	17891	11
May .....	2195	6719	9	2341	8287	12
June .....	3240	13568	47	3453	17626	24
July .....	11842	24511	21	6308	41674	21
August .....	9957	44226	22	11610	38947	6
September .....	6596	29254	15	9483	17010	11
October .....	2890	8714	5	4416	5796	5
November .....	1525	2236	2	1619	1592	11
December .....	2278	2405	11	3106	4330	8
<b>TOTAL ....</b>	<b>47946</b>	<b>154752</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>50173</b>	<b>160156</b>	<b>150</b>

( b ) CARGO TRAFFIC.

### Principal Imports and Exports.

	<u>Imports.</u> (Tons)	<u>Exports.</u> (Tons)
Coal .....	115,690	-
Building and road-making materials .....	1,258	4,096
Fish (Dieppe - 82 tons; Local - 169 tons) ..	251	-
Fruit and Vegetables (Dieppe - 16763 tons) ..	24,558	-
Iron and Steel Manufactures thereof .....	1,245	4,240
Oil and Spirit (Mineral and Motor) .....	8,658	-
Timber .....	3,594	-
Other Commodities .....	22,310	19,024
 Totals .....	 177,564	 27,360

\* Dioppo - 16763 tons & Coast of N. Africa - 7795 tons.

* Includes :-	Cars .....	Number	Number
	Motor Cyclos ....	6,976	8,782

(c) FOREIGN PORTS FROM WHICH VESSELS ARRIVE.

Antwerp; Boulogne; Casablanca; Dieppe; Ostend; Rotterdam

The principal foreign port from which vessels arrive is Dieppe; 441 passenger arrivals from that port alone, in addition to a number of general cargo vessels.



MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS.

Annual Return by the Medical Inspector of Aliens for the year ended 31st December, 1949.

Transmigrants	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Landing necessary for adequate medical examination	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Suffering from acute infectious disease	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Physically incapacitated							
Undesirable for medical reasons							
Lunatic, Idiot or M.D.							
Number subjected to detailed examination by Medical Inspector							
Number inspected by the Medical Inspector							
TOTAL ALIENS arriving at the Port .....	48,060	46,590	1,470	4	5	23	1

Total number of vessels carrying alien passengers ..... 441.  
 Number of vessels dealt with by the Medical Inspector ..... 441.

III. WATER SUPPLY.

(1) Source of Supply for

(a) The Port .... East Sido - British Railways - Southern Region  
 Well at Denton,  
 West Side - Newhaven & Seaford Water Company.

(b) Shipping .... Ditto. Ditto.

(2) Hydrants & Hosepipes :

These are under the care of an employee of the British Railways - Southern Region. Before any tanks are filled, a certain quantity of water is run to waste. The water itself is subject to chlorination.

One sample of water from the British Railways Well at Denton, and two samples from the mains after chlorination, were submitted to the Public Analyst during 1949, for bacteriological and chemical analysis. These proved to be of the highest quality.

The water supply of the Newhaven and Seaford Water Company is subject to regular tests and is uniformly good.



#### IV. PORT HEALTH REGULATIONS 1933 & 1945.

(1) ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH DECLARATION OF HEALTH. Declarations of Health are collected and examined immediately on arrival of a vessel. If by H.M. Customs Officer, they are forwarded to the Public Health Department.

(2) BOARDING OF VESSELS ON ARRIVAL. All vessels from outside Home Trade limits are boarded as soon as they are moored. Any vessel which has come from an infected port receives special attention, and is boarded by the Medical Officer of Health.

(3) NOTIFICATION TO THE AUTHORITY OF INWARD VESSELS REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION (WIRELESS MESSAGES, LAND SIGNAL STATIONS, INFORMATION FROM PILOTS, CUSTOMS OFFICERS, ETC.). With regard to vessels arriving from infected ports, notification is sent immediately to the Public Health Department at Newhaven; or, if the vessels arrive outside normal working hours, the information is sent direct to the Sanitary Inspector for his attention. In special circumstances or if information is required matters are passed to the Sanitary Inspector, who contacts the Medical Officer of Health.

(4) MOORING STATIONS DESIGNATED UNDER ARTICLE 10: (a) within the docks, (b) outside the docks. There are no special mooring stations at Newhaven Port.

(5) PARTICULARS OF ANY STANDING EXEMPTIONS FROM THE PROVISION OF ARTICLE 14. There are no standing exemptions from the provisions of Article 14.

(6) EXPERIENCE OF WORKING OF ARTICLE 16. No cases of improper boarding of vessels previous to the grant of pratique have occurred.

(7) WHAT, IF ANY, ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR :-

- (a) Promises and waiting rooms for medical examinations. Those have been maintained at the improved standard effected in 1948.
- (b) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, and clothing and other articles. There are disinfection stations on the East Quay. Steam disinfection can also be undertaken at the Newhaven Infectious Diseases Hospital. D.D.T. and blowers are also available.
- (c) Premises for the temporary accommodation of persons when such accommodation is required for the purpose of the Regulations. Accommodation is available at the Newhaven Infectious Diseases Hospital whenever required.
- (d) Hospital Accommodation available for Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox, and other infectious diseases. In the case of Smallpox, patients can be admitted to Sedgemoor Hospital, Plumpton. Any other infectious diseases are admitted to the Newhaven Infectious Diseases Hospital.
- (e) Ambulance Transport. The East Sussex County Council is the Ambulance Authority and ambulances are provided for infectious diseases cases.
- (f) Supervision of Contacts. Contacts can be dealt with by sending them to the Newhaven Infectious Diseases Hospital. In special circumstances, immigrants may be instructed by the Medical Officer to report on arrival in the district of a local authority to the Medical Officer of Health of the local authority.

(8) ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BACTERIOLOGICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF RATS FOR PLAGUE. These arrangements can now be carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, Sussex.



(9) ARRANGEMENTS FOR OTHER BACTERIOLOGICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.  
These can also be carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton.

(10) INFORMATION AS TO THE LOCATION, DAYS AND HOURS OF THE AVAILABLE FACILITIES FOR THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF VENEREAL DISEASE AMONG MERCHANT SEAMEN UNDER INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING IN-PATIENT TREATMENT; ALSO AS TO THE STEPS TAKEN TO MAKE FACILITIES KNOWN TO SEAMEN. The Masters of all vessels are requested to report any case of venereal disease occurring amongst their crews, when instructions can be given as to treatment at the Brighton Clinic.

(11) ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INTERMENT OF THE DEAD. When death occurs on board a ship at Newhaven Port, the body can be removed to the mortuary at Newhaven Cemetery, and arrangements made for interment.

(12) OTHER MATTERS, IF ANY, REQUIRING OR RECEIVING ATTENTION. Should any other matters requiring attention be brought to the notice of the Sanitary Inspector, they are dealt with immediately.

TABLE "C"

Cases of Infectious Sickness landed from Vessels.

Disease	Number of Cases during the year		Number of Vessels concerned	Average number of cases for previous 5 years.
	Passengers	Crew		
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

TABLE "D"

Cases of Infectious Sickness occurring on Vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

Disease	Number of Cases during the year		Number of Vessels concerned	Average number of cases for previous 5 years.
	Passengers	Crew		
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

If any cases of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox or Typhus occurred, or if plague-infected rats were discovered, or if any severe outbreak of Malaria occurred on an arriving ship during the year, a short account should be given of the steps taken. There is nothing to report under this heading for the year 1949.



V. MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST RODENTS.

(1) Steps taken for detection of Rodent Plague.

- (a) in ships in the Port. ... ... Vessels are examined for rats.
- (b) on quays, wharves, warehouscs, etc., in the vicinity of the Port ... ... Any mortality, other than poison, would be suspect.

(2) Measures taken to prevent the passage of rats between ships and the shore. Rat guards are required to be fitted to all foreign trade vessels, and any vessel found to be rat infested is required to withdraw gangways at night.

(3) Methods of deratisation of :-

- (a) Ships: If search reveals any infestation, trapping and poisoning are available. British Railway vessels are serviced by a firm of contractors.
- (b) Promises in the vicinity of the docks or quays: The dock undertaking employ a servicing firm (Messrs. Ratsouris) who inspect, bait, and poison. A Company's Rat Catcher is also employed.

(4) Measures taken for the detection of rat prevalence in ships and on shore.

- (a) on ships: The Sanitary Inspector examines where possible.
- (b) on shore: The same remarks apply as under heading 3(b) in regard to the Servicing Firm.

(5) Rat-Proofing.

- (a) To what extent are docks, wharves, warehouscs, etc., rat-proof? The docks and warehouscs, owing to their construction being mainly of wood, are not in any degree rat-proof.

(b) Action taken to extend rat-proofing:

- (i) in ships: Ships using the ports are mainly cross channel packets and colliers and have a fairly high degree of rat proofing. If any excessive harbourage is discovered, the Master of the ship is required to abate the same.
- (ii) on shore: As in 5(a) the wood decking, wood buildings, open platforms are almost impossible to proof.

RATS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR 1949.

TABLE "E"

(1) ON VESSELS.

Number of Rats	JAN	FEB	MAR:	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG:	SEPT:	OCT:	NOV:	DEC:
Black												
Brown												
Species not recorded.												
Examined												
Infected												
with Plague												

Total in the year - species not recorded - Nil.  
(figure supplied by Messrs. Ratsouris)



TABLE "F"

(2) IN DOCKS, QUAYS, WHARVES AND WAREHOUSES \*\*

Number of Rats	JAN FEB MAR:	APRIL MAY JUNE	JULY AUG: SEPT:	OCT: NOV: DEC:
Black				
Brown				
Species not recorded	(-----13-----)	(-----28-----)	(-----11-----)	(-----15-----)
Examined				
Infected				
with plague				

Total in the year - species not recorded - 67.

\*\* Under the control of British Railways - Southern Region.

TABLE "G"

Measures of Rat Destruction on Plague "infected" or "suspected" Vessels, or Vessels from Plague infected Ports arriving in the Port during the year.

Total number of such Vessels arriving (1)	Number of such Vessels fumigated by SO <sub>2</sub> . (2)	Number of Rats killed (3)	Number of such Vessels fumigated by H.C.N. (4)
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

Number of Rats killed (5)	Number of such Vessels on which trapping, poisoning etc., were employed. (6)	Number of Rats killed (7)	Number of such Vessels on which measures of rat destruction were not carried out. (8)
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

TABLE "H" \*\*\*

Doratisation Certificates and Doratisation Exemption Certificates issued during the Year.

\*\*\* Newhaven Port has not been approved by the Minister of Health for the issue of these certificates.



VI. HYGIENE OF CREWS' SPACES.

TABLE "J"

CLASSIFICATION OF NUISANCES.

Nationality of Vessel	Number Inspected during the year	Defects of original construction	Structural Defects through wear and tear	Dirt, Vermin & other conditions prejudicial to health
British	151	Nil	2	3
Other Nations	65	Nil	1	Nil

VII. FOOD INSPECTION.

1. PUBLIC HEALTH (IMPORTED FOOD) REGULATIONS, 1937. These Regulations have been carried out and the following foods have been landed at Newhaven :-

	<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Packages.</u>	<u>Tons.</u>
<u>Ex-Dieppe.</u>	Apricots (Spanish)	2,820	26
	Asparagus	749	8
	Cauliflower	166,397	2,708
	Carrots	24,059	310
	Cherries	13,701	98
	Currents (black)	12,268	138
	" (red)	846	4
	" (frozen)	1,636	261
	Dates	5,600	130
	Fruit, mixed. (melons, figs, etc.)	423	4
	Garlic	22	1
	Grapes	35,689	281
	Lemons	51,837	2,482
	Mandarins	139,885	2,224
	Nuts	85,824	2,059
	Onions	7,740	237
	Oranges	600	15
	Peaches	29,295	255
	Pears	198,791	3,405
	Pears	1,407	4
	Plums	99,100	818
	Pomegranates	6,126	95
	Potatoes	2,335	70
	Strawberries	15,364	78
	Tomatoes	5,920	87
	Vegetables (mixed)	48,224	435
	Vegetables and Fruit (canned)	5,400	237
	Preserved Meats (Salami Sausage)	4,200	182
		66,258	16,652
<u>Ex-Jersey</u>	Potatoes	-	2,034
<u>Ex-N. Africa</u>	Potatoes	-	3,951
	Fruit & Tomatoes	-	1,811
			7,796
	GRAND TOTAL .....	<u>24,448</u>	tons



II. PUBLIC HEALTH (IMPORTED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1926, AND PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES, ETC. IN FOOD) REGULATIONS, 1925 - 1940. It has not been necessary to take any action under these Regulations.

III. SHELL FISH. INFORMATION RESPECTING ANY SHELL-FISH BEDS OR LAYINGS WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE P.H.A. stating whether they are, in the opinion of the Medical Officer, liable to pollution. Report of any action taken under the Public Health (Shell-Fish) Regulations, 1934, or the Food & Drugs Act, 1938. There are no shell-fish beds or layings within the jurisdiction of the Port Health Authority.

IV. NUMBER OF SAMPLES OF FOOD EXAMINED BY :-

(a) Bacteriologist	...	...	...	Nil.
(b) Analyst	...	...	...	Nil.

G. H. D. S. B. LOBBAN.

Port Medical Officer.

February, 1950.

